

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A tunneler, comprising:
a tip containing gripping means; and
a plurality of flexible shaft members extending from the tip, the plurality of shaft members having dissimilar lengths.
2. (currently amended) The tunneler of claim 1, wherein each shaft member ~~contains means for retaining the shaft member~~ is retained in the lumen of a catheter.
3. (currently amended) The tunneler of claim 2, wherein ~~the retaining means comprises a protrusion on the shaft member~~ is retained in the lumen by using a protrusion.
4. (original) The tunneler of claim 1, wherein the difference in the lengths of the shaft member ranges up to about 20 %.
5. (original) A tunneling system, comprising:
a tip containing gripping means; and
a plurality of flexible shaft members extending from the tip, the plurality of shaft members having dissimilar lengths.
6. (currently amended) The system of claim 5, wherein each tip shaft member ~~contains means for retaining the shaft member~~ is retained in the lumen of a catheter.
7. (currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein ~~the retaining means comprises a protrusion on the tip shaft member~~ is retained in the lumen by using a protrusion.
8. (currently amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the difference in the lengths of the tip shaft members ranges up to about 20 %.

9. (currently amended) The system of claim 6, further comprising a tunneler shaft that is removably connected to the tip.

10. (currently amended) The system of claim 9, further comprising a sheath ~~the that~~ covers ~~the a~~ portion of the tip and sheath tunneler shaft that are connected.

11. (currently amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the sheath ~~contains first means for retaining the sheath~~ is retained both on the tip and ~~second means for retaining the sheath~~ on the tunneler shaft.

12. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the ~~first retaining means comprises the sheath~~ is retained on the tip using a retaining ring.

13. (currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the ~~first retaining means~~ retaining ring complements the protrusion on a tip shaft member.

14. (currently amended) The system of claim 5, wherein only one tip shaft member ~~contains means for retaining the shaft member~~ is retained in the lumen of a catheter.

15. (currently amended) A tunneling system, comprising:
a tip containing gripping means and a plurality of flexible shaft members extending therefrom, the plurality of shaft members having dissimilar lengths;

a tunneler shaft ~~removable~~ removably connected to the tip; and

a sheath covering the ~~a~~ portion of the tip and sheath tunneler shaft that are connected.

16. (currently amended) The system of claim 15, wherein each tip shaft member contains a protrusion thereon.

17. (currently amended) The system of claim 16, wherein the sheath ~~contains first means for retaining the sheath~~ is retained both on the tip and ~~second means for retaining the sheath~~ on the tunneler shaft.

18. (currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the ~~first retaining means comprises the sheath is retained on the tip using a retaining ring.~~

19. (currently amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the ~~first retaining means retaining ring~~ complements the protrusion on a tip shaft member.

20. (currently amended) The system of claim 15, wherein only one tip shaft member contains a protrusion thereon.

21. (original) A medical device, comprising:

a multi-lumen catheter; and

a tunneler with a tip containing gripping means and a plurality of flexible shaft members extending therefrom, the plurality of shaft members having dissimilar lengths.

22. (withdrawn) A method for connecting a tunneler and a catheter, the method comprising:

providing a tunneler with a tip containing gripping means and a plurality of flexible shaft members extending therefrom, the plurality of shaft members having dissimilar lengths;

providing a multi-lumen catheter; and

inserting the plurality of shaft members into the lumens of the catheter.

23. (withdrawn) The method of claim 22, including providing each shaft member with means for retaining the shaft member in the lumen of the catheter.

24. (withdrawn) A method for inserting a catheter in the body, the method comprising:

providing a tunneler with a tip containing gripping means and a plurality of flexible shaft members extending therefrom, the plurality of shaft members having dissimilar lengths;

providing a multi-lumen catheter;

inserting the plurality of shaft members into the lumens of the catheter;
pulling the tunneler through a pair of incisions in the body; and
detaching the tunneler from the catheter.

25. (withdrawn) A method for creating a tunnel in a patient, the method comprising:
providing a tunneler with a tip containing gripping means and a plurality of flexible shaft
members extending therefrom, the plurality of shaft members having dissimilar lengths;
providing a multi-lumen catheter;
inserting the plurality of shaft members into the lumens of the catheter;
pulling the tunneler through a pair of incisions in the body; and
detaching the tunneler from the catheter.